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CONFLICT OF INTEREST PLAINT AGAINST KOHLI

- BCCI ethics officer D K Jain has said he is examining a conflict of interest complaint against Indian Cricket Team skipper Virat Kohli
- MP Cricket Association member Sanjeev Gupta has alleged that Kohli occupies 2 posts — captain of the Indian team and director of a venture which has co-directors linked to a talent firm that has his teammates on board which Gupta says, is against BCCI's norms | P11

Prime Minister Narendra Modi calling on President Ram Nath Kovind at Rashtrapati Bhavan, in New Delhi on Sunday | BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Buzz on Cabinet rejig as Modi calls on Prez

Briefs Ram Nath Kovind on developing situation along the LAC in Ladakh and the pandemic

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @New Delhi

TWO days after visiting forward posts in Ladakh, Prime Minister Narendra Modi called on President Ram Nath Kovind on Sunday and briefed him on "issues of national and international importance", Rashtrapati Bhavan said.

The visit came at a time when India is gradually rolling out punitive economic actions aimed at China in the aftermath of the June 14/15 violent clash in the Galwan Valley of East Ladakh.

"Prime Minister @narendramodi called on President Kovind and briefed him on the issues of national and international importance at Rashtrapati Bhavan," the official handle of the President tweeted. The Modi-led NDA government at the Centre completed one year in office on May 30.

The meeting also came at a time when India has scaled up military and paramilitary deployments along the troubled Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China. The PM had last month also called an all-party meeting to discuss the issue of the stand-off with China.

This was Modi's first one-on-one with President Kovind after the Covid-19 outbreak and the consequent lockdown in phases. He briefed the President on the prevailing situation and the government's responses, said a senior official.

The Prime Minister is also likely to expand his Council of Ministers. BJP circles have been abuzz for a while about the likely induction of fresh faces along with space for NDA allies. The JD(U) is not yet part of the Council of Ministers at the Centre. The NDA, incidentally, has begun preparing for the Bihar Assembly elections, which may be held during October-November in multiple phases.

Modi's visit to Rashtrapati Bhavan has also come at a time when the presiding officers of the two Houses of Parliament are exploring ways to hold the Monsoon session. There exists, however, a six-month window till September for summoning the session.

COMPARE THAT

Russia has been reporting under **6,900** new cases since June 27

In contrast, India's fresh case count crossed **20,000** on June 3 and has now climbed to **24,850**

With 25K new Covid cases, India in 3rd spot

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @New Delhi

INDIA registered a record single-day surge of 24,850 coronavirus infections and 613 fatalities on Sunday, taking the total case load to 6,73,165 with 19,268 deaths. According to Worldometer, which tracks coronavirus cases across the world in real-time, India overtook Russia to become the world's third worst-hit country by Covid-19 in overall cases. Only the US and Brazil are ahead of India in the number of cases recorded.

In terms of deaths, India is at the eighth position.

While Russia's average daily spike in Covid cases stands at 6,000, India has been recording over 20,000 infections a day.

Maharashtra, the worst-hit state in the country, on Sunday recorded 7,074 infections, taking the total cases to over 2 lakh. Tamil Nadu reported 4,280 cases in the past 24 hours, while Delhi, Telangana, Karnataka, Assam and Bihar added a total of 7,935 cases.

On the other hand, the number of recoveries is rising, too. As on Sunday, total recoveries stood at 4,09,082. While the total cases recorded are over six lakh, the active cases are only 2,44,814. "Sixty per cent of patients have recovered so far," an official said.

Of the 613 deaths reported, 295 are from Maharashtra, 81 from Delhi, 65 from Tamil Nadu, 37 from Karnataka, 24 from Uttar Pradesh, 21 from Gujarat, 19 from West Bengal, 12 from AP, nine from Bihar, eight from J&K, seven from Rajasthan, five each in Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Punjab and Telangana.

S&T Ministry flip-flop on vaccine launch

RICHA SHARMA @New Delhi

BY when can we expect a Covid vaccine? While the Indian Council of Medical Research is yet to withdraw the August 15 deadline it set for the vaccine's launch, the Science & Technology Ministry claims the Covid shot is unlikely to be ready for mass use before 2021.

"With the primary scientific inputs coming from ICMR institution National Institute of Virology, Pune, and CSIR institution Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad, six Indian companies are working on a vaccine for Covid-19. Along with the two Indian vaccines, COVAXIN and ZyCov-D, the world over, 11 out of 140 vaccine candidates have entered the human trials. None of these vaccines are unlikely to be ready for mass use before 2021 (sic)," the ministry said.

When mediapersons sought an explanation on two versions by ministries headed by Dr Harsh Vardhan, they quickly purged the sentence, "None of these vaccines is unlikely to be ready for mass use before 2021 (sic)."

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- Bengaluru Urban sees a whopping 1,235 cases in just one day, with the total cases in the district spiking to 9,560 so far
- Five from the fire station within the Jnana Bharathi campus in Bhau contact virus, putting the premises under complete lockdown
- In Ballari, results of swab tests conducted using Rapid Antigen Test Kits will be shared on patients' mobile numbers
- With 51 cases on Sunday and rising, Vijayapura city has begun conducting random tests for the first time to contain the spike

Patients abandoned, hospitals warned

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

EVEN as the State Government is going about setting up dedicated helplines and a centralised bed allocation system for Covid-19 patients, shocking cases of Covid-19 patients being dumped by the roadside and calls being ignored by ambulance services are being reported from the city.

On Saturday night, a 36-year-old patient was dropped off by the ambulance staff in front of Haj Bhavan where he was left stranded from midnight till 2.30 am after Victoria Hospital refused to admit him. He was finally admitted at 8 am, but given a bed only at 5 pm on Sunday.

In another incident, a 29-year-old accountant from Murugeshpalya, who tested positive for Covid-19 on Friday, had to wait till Sunday evening for an ambulance to pick him up — that too after *TNIE* alerted the health officials of his plight.

Medical Education Minister Dr K Sudhakar on Sunday warned of strict legal action against hospitals and said criminal cases will be registered against them for refusing to admit and treat Covid-19 patients. The country's largest Covid care centre was also opened at BIEC with 1,100 beds for asymptomatic patients.

Ironically, a video of the managing director of a private hospital in the city, in which he is seen saying that his hospital has all facilities but no doctors, went viral on Sunday.

After Jayanagar Congress MLA Soumya Reddy took to Twitter to narrate her harrowing experience of trying to get a critical patient admitted to a hospital, Sudhakar also paid surprise visits to two hospitals.

Last week, at least three people had died in the city after being denied admission in different hospitals. In Hanumanthanagar, the body of a patient lay drenched in the rain till the ambulance turned up three hours later.

On Saturday, the body of a Covid-19 victim was found dumped at a bus stop in Ranebennur, Haveri district. P4

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